

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A wale and retaining system for use in bracing a retaining wall, the system comprising:

a wale of a unitary construction and comprising pultruded composite material, the wale further comprising,

a back wall having a first opening therethrough,

a front wall having a channel formed therein and extending from a first end of the wale to a second end of the wale, the front wall having a second opening therethrough, said front wall comprising,

a first front outer wall and a second front outer wall each substantially parallel to the base wall,

a channel base wall substantially parallel to said base wall,

a first channel side wall extending between both said first front outer wall and said channel base wall,

a second channel side wall extending between both said second front outer wall and said channel base wall, and

a first interior reinforcing wall and a second interior reinforcing wall connecting said back wall and said front wall to form a middle and two side chambers between said back wall

and said front wall, and wherein the middle and two side chambers extend from the first end of the wale to the second end of the wale,

~~\_\_\_\_\_ a plurality of connecting walls connecting said back and front walls to form at least one chamber between said back wall and said front wall, said plurality of connecting walls includes a top wall, an upper reinforcing wall, a lower reinforcing wall, and a bottom wall, and wherein a plurality of chambers are formed between said back wall and said front wall;~~

a tieback rod extending through the first opening, ~~a one of the plurality of chambers~~ said middle chamber, and the second opening;

a fastener coupled to said tieback rod and disposed within the channel;

and wherein said channel has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to said retaining wall by the tieback rod passing through said wale and the fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel.

2. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[4]] 1 wherein said composite material is fiberglass reinforced plastic resin impregnated composite.

6. (Currently Amended) A retaining wall wale and retaining system, comprising:

a wale of a unitary construction and comprising pultruded composite material, the wale further comprising,

a back wall,

a front wall having a top portion and a bottom portion interconnected by a C-shaped channel portion extending from a first end of the wale to a second end of the wale, said top and bottom portions substantially parallel to said back wall, and said C-shaped channel portion including a channel bottom portion, a first channel side portion and a second channel side portion,

a top wall connecting said back wall to said top portion,

a bottom wall connecting said back wall to said bottom portion to form a chamber between said back wall and said front wall, and

an upper reinforcing wall and a lower reinforcing wall each connecting said back wall to said channel bottom portion of said C-shaped channel portion ~~at least one of said top portion, said C-shaped channel portion, and said bottom portion~~ such that at least three ~~a plurality of~~ chambers are formed between said back wall and said front wall and extending from the first end of the wale to the second end of the wale;

a tieback rod extending through the ~~front wall~~ channel bottom portion, a middle one of the ~~plurality of~~ chambers, and the back wall;

a fastener coupled to said tieback rod and disposed within the channel; and

and wherein said channel portion has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to a retaining wall by the tieback rod passing through the said wale and the fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel portion.

7. - 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A wale and retaining system for use in bracing a retaining wall, said system comprising:

a wale of a unitary construction, the wale further comprising,

a base wall having a first opening therein and operable for receiving a tieback rod therethrough, a front wall, a first side wall and a second side wall, each of the first side wall and the second side wall extending between both the base wall and the front wall, wherein the front wall includes a channel formed therein, and the front wall comprises:

a first front outer wall and a second front outer wall each substantially parallel to the base wall,

a channel base wall substantially parallel to the base wall and having a second opening therein and operable for receiving the tieback rod therethrough,

a first channel side wall extending between both the first front outer wall and the channel base wall, and

a second channel side wall extending between both the second front outer wall and the channel base wall, and

a first interior reinforcing wall and a second interior reinforcing wall, each of the first interior reinforcing wall and the second interior reinforcing wall extending between the base wall and the channel base wall, thereby forming at least a middle chamber and two side chambers, and

wherein a distance between the first interior reinforcing wall and the second interior reinforcing wall is less than a distance between the first channel side wall and the second channel side wall;

~~a back wall having a first opening therein and operable for receiving a tieback rod therethrough;~~

~~———— a front wall having a channel formed therein extending from a first end of the wale to a second end of the wale and having a second opening therein and operable for receiving the tieback rod therethrough, and~~

~~———— a plurality of connecting walls connecting said back and front walls to form at least one chamber between said back wall and said front wall;~~

a wherein the tieback rod extending extends through the first opening, the at least one middle chamber, and the second opening; and

a fastener coupled to said tieback rod and disposed within the channel.

29. (Currently Amended) The wale and retaining system of Claim 28 wherein said channel has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to a retaining wall by the tieback rod and the fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The wale and retaining system of claim 28 wherein said wale further comprises a pultruded composite material.

32. (Currently Amended) The wale and retaining system of claim 31 wherein said composite material is fiberglass reinforced plastic resin impregnated composite.

33. - 34. (Canceled).

35. (New) A wale for use in bracing a retaining wall, said wale comprising:

a base wall, a front wall, a first side wall and a second side wall, each of the first side wall and the second side wall extending between both the base wall and the front wall;

wherein the front wall includes a channel formed therein, and the front wall comprises:

a first front outer wall and a second front outer wall each substantially parallel to the base wall,

a channel base wall substantially parallel to the base wall,  
a first channel side wall extending between both the first front outer wall and  
the channel base wall, and  
a second channel side wall extending between both the second front outer  
wall and the channel base wall; and

a first interior reinforcing wall and a second interior reinforcing wall, each of the first interior  
reinforcing wall and the second interior reinforcing wall extending between the base wall and the  
channel base wall, thereby forming a first chamber.

36. (New) The wale of claim 35 wherein a distance between the first interior reinforcing wall  
and the second interior reinforcing wall is less than a distance between the first channel side wall and  
the second channel side wall.

37. (New) The wale of claim 35 wherein the channel has a depth sufficient such that when the  
wale is secured to the retaining wall by a tieback rod passing through the wale and a fastener, the  
tieback rod and the fastener do not protrude from the channel.

38. (New) The wale of claim 35 wherein the wale is of a unitary construction.

39. (New) The wale of claim 38 wherein the wale further comprises a pultruded composite material.
40. (New) The wale of claim 39 wherein the composite material is fiberglass reinforced plastic resin impregnated composite.
41. (New) The wale of claim 35 wherein a first portion of said base wall, the first side wall, the first outer front wall, the first channel side wall and the first interior reinforcing wall form a second chamber, and a second portion of the base wall, the second side wall, the second outer front wall, the second channel side wall and the second interior reinforcing wall form a third chamber.
42. (New) The wale and retaining system of claim 1 wherein a distance between said first interior reinforcing wall and said second interior reinforcing wall is less than a distance between said first channel side wall and said second channel side wall.
43. (New) The retaining wall wale and retaining system of claim 6 wherein a distance between said upper reinforcing wall and said lower reinforcing wall is less than a distance between said first channel side portion and said second channel side portion.